(e) Modernisation of the post office is a continuing process involving induction of relevant technology and its upgradation to keep pace with changing needs of the service. The programme of providing computer-based counter machines will be a part of the department's Annual Plan Programmes to cover all suitable post offices subject to availability of adequate resources.

Statement

Number of Post Offices State-wise provided with Computer based counter Machines

SI. No.	Name of State	No. of Post Offices with computer based counter machines
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51
2.	Assam	06
3.	Bihar	17
4.	Delhi	60
5.	Gujarat	61
6.	Goa	03
7.	Haryana	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	06
10.	Karnataka	53
11.	Kerala	63
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19
13.	Maharashtra	72
14.	Tripura	01
15.	Manipur	01
16.	Nagaland	01
17.	Meghalaya	02
18.	Mizoram	01
19.	Orissa	12
20.	Punjab	26
21.	Rajasthan	20
22.	Tamilnadu	80
23.	Uttar Pradesh	46
24.	West Bengal	07
	Total	658

Setting up of Special Environmental Courts

566. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have noted the observations of the Supreme Court suggesting setting up of special Environmental Courts to deal with violations of environment laws as per article published in the Hindustan Times, dated 19th February, 1996 under the column ""Law and Justice".

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen institutional machinery both at the Centre and at the States level so as to enforce anti-pollution laws and to ensure that heads of units/agencies personally made accountable for any lapses in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) After the observations of the Supreme Court in the Oleum gas leak case at Shriram Foods & Fertilizer Industries Ltd., Delhi, suggesting setting up of Environmental Courts, the Government has enacted a legislation called the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 which provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. This Act provides for establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accidents. The Ministry reviews the performance of the institutional mechanisms and takes necessary steps from time to time for strengthening them further, whenever necessary. The heads of units/agencies are accountable for lapses in this regard.

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

567. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints pertaining to violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Reports regarding violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been received from time to time from various sources including Regional Offices of the Ministry, non-Government organisations, individuals etc. Reports mostly pertain to use of forest land for non-forest purposes without prior approval of the Central Government or non-fulfilment of the conditions stipulated by the Ministry in the approvals issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) The concerned State Governments have been asked to ensure that violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 do not take place. Further, cases involving violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are decided in accordance with the guidelines issued for implementation of the Act.

Evaluation of Tenders for Basic Telecom Services in Rajasthan and Karnataka

568. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of evaluation of tender bids for Rajasthan and Karnataka by the TEC;

(b) the nature of the representations by the HI bidders in their circles;

(c) the exact figures of the levy offered by these bidders year by year and what was the corresponding minimum fixed by TEC; and

(d) the revised criterion adopted by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The details of evaluation of tender bid for Rajasthan and Karnataka by the TEC are given in Annexure *[See Appendix 176, Annexure No. 30]*

(b) The bidders have represented that NPV of their quoted levy is higher than the NPV of the expected reasonable Levy calculated by the TEC.

(c)As given in Annexure *[See Appendix 176, Annexure No. 31]*

(d) No criterion has been revised by the Government.

"टाडा" के अंतर्गत निरूद्ध किए गए व्यक्तियों की रिहाई के लिए पुनरीक्षा समितियां

569. **श्री अजीज जोगी** :

श्री एस.एस. सुरजेवाला :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगें कि:

(क) उन राज्यों के नाम क्या हैं जिनमें उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देश के अनुरूप "टाडा" के अंतर्गत निरूद्व किए गए व्यक्तियों की रिहाई के लिए पुनरीक्षा समितियों का गठन किया गया हैं;

(ख) इन समीक्षा समितियों की सिफारिश पर 31 दिसम्बर, 1995 तक राज्यवार "टाडा" के अंतर्गत निरूद्व किए गए व्यक्तियों को रिहा किया गया;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन पुनरीक्षा समितियों द्वारा गुण-दोष के आधार पर ऐसे कैदियों को रिहा करने हेतु राज्य सरकारों के लिए कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित की हैं; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ततसंबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (सैयद सिब्ते रजी) : (क) और (ख) टाडा के अंतर्गत निरूद्व किए गए व्यक्तियों को रिहा करने के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देशानुसार जिन राज्यों में समीक्षा समितियां गठित की गई हैं उनके नाम तथा इन समीक्षा समितियों द्वारा की गई सिफारिशों के आधार पर 31.12.95 तक रिहा किए गए व्यक्तियों के ब्यौरे दर्शाता हुआ एक विवरण सलंग्न हैं।

(ग) और (घ) उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देशानुसार, केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य सरकारों ने समीक्षा की बैठकें आवधिक रूप में की जा रही हैं तथा मामलों की नियमित रूप में पुनरीक्षा की जा रही हैं। इस कार्रवाई को शीघ्रतापूर्वक प्राथमिकता के आधार पर करने की आवश्यकता पर भारत सरकार बार-बार जोर दे रही हैं।